

**ISSUES PROGRAM REPORTS  
FOR SECOND QUARTER 2001**

**F.C.C. 73.3256 (A) (9)**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

**KTRK-TELEVISION, INC  
HOUSTON, TX**

**JULY 10, 2001**

## INTRODUCTION

From April 1, 2001 through June 30, 2001, KTRK-TV broadcast local weekly public affairs programs under the umbrella title, *ABC13 COMMUNITY CLOSE UP*. The programs addressed the issues, interests and needs of specific communities and of the community at large. The half-hour programs aired on Saturdays, at 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m., scheduled for broadcast on a rotation basis.

### *ABC-13 COMMUNITY CLOSE UP* Programs:

#### **GENERAL ISSUES Editions** (rotates throughout the year)

(12:00 p.m.)

Program geared toward major issues of concern to the community at large.

#### ***"COUNTY LINE"*** (rotates throughout the year)

(12:00 p.m.)

Program geared toward the issues, interests and needs of communities in the eight-county viewing area.

#### ***"CROSSROADS"*** (rotates throughout the year)

(12:30 p.m.)

Program geared toward the issues, interests and needs of the African American community.

#### ***"VISIONS"*** (rotates throughout the year)

(12:00 p.m.)

Program geared toward the issues, interests and needs of the Asian Pacific American community.

#### ***"VIVA HOUSTON"*** (rotates throughout the year)

(12:30 p.m.)

Program geared toward the issues, interests and needs of the Hispanic community.

ABC13 broadcast a local, one-hour weekday morning program:

#### ***DEBRA DUNCAN***

Monday-Friday, 9:00 –10:00 a.m., April 1-June 22; June 25-29, 3:00 p.m.

REPEATED: Weeknights, 11:30 p.m. & Sundays, 11:00 a.m., April 1-June 30

Live audience program geared toward the general public dealing with topics, issues and entertainment. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, numerous editions were devoted to issues of concern to the general public, including 17 programs on health subjects and health-related topics and others addressing public safety, parenting and child abduction. [For details, see ISSUES in this report.]

ABC13 broadcast news reports, notably extensive live emergency coverage of the Tropical Storm Allison flood disaster, local special programs, and more than 2,000 public service announcements on the issues and concerns of the community during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

In addition to local programs, news reports, and public service announcements described in this report, the station broadcast all programs provided by the ABC Television Network. The network's report entitled, "ABC-TV Network Second Quarter 2001 Program Information," is filed separately.

KTRK-TV's local programs, news reports and public service announcements provided significant treatment of the following issues of importance to the community in the second quarter of 2001.

- 1) Flood Disaster/Tropical Storm Allison
- 2) Electricity Deregulation
- 3) Diseases – Treatment & Prevention
- 4) Health Care Advise
- 5) Parenting
- 6) Yates Case / Postpartum Depression
- 7) Blood Supply Shortages
- 8) Child Abduction
- 9) Public Safety
- 10) Economic Development
- 11) Illegal Immigration
- 12) Race/Ethnic Relations

## **KTRK-TV NEWS PROGRAMS – Second Quarter, 2001**

### **EYEWITNESS NEWS AT 5:00 AM, 5:30 AM and 6 AM -- WEEKDAYS**

Tom Koch, Cheryl Keck, Don Nelson and meteorologist Doug Brown anchor these two hour-half and one-hour morning newscast, from 5:00-7:00 a.m., Monday through Friday. This program includes the latest overnight news, weather, sports, and traffic reports. Also, includes a number of weekly series including “Common Sense”, a series on financial reports about economic trends and investment opportunities; as well as “The People’s Lawyer”, a series of reports on legal issues.

### **EYEWITNESS NEWS AT 11:30 AM -- WEEKDAYS**

Tom Koch, Melanie Lawson and meteorologist Doug Brown anchor this midday newscast from 11:30 a.m.-12:00 noon, Monday-Friday. This program includes the latest news and weather.

### **EYEWITNESS NEWS AT 5 PM -- WEEKDAYS**

Art Rascon, Melanie Lawson, meteorologist Ed Brandon anchor this half-hour evening newscast from 5:00-5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. This program includes the latest news, weather, and sports. Three days a week medical reporter Christi Meyers anchors a “Healthcheck” segment of approximately two minutes on the latest medical news and advances.

### **EYEWITNESS NEWS AT 6 PM -- WEEKDAYS**

Dave Ward, Shara Fryer, meteorologist Ed Brandon sportscaster Bob Allen anchor this early evening hour-long newscast from 6:00-7:00 p.m., Monday-Friday. This program includes the latest news, weather, and sports. Anchor Marvin Zindler brings daily reports on consumer complaints regarding matters that affect the community. Consumer investigator Nydia Han reports on major consumer issues. Health reporter Christi Myers reports on current health issues and topics.

### **EYEWITNESS NEWS AT 10 PM -- WEEKDAYS**

Dave Ward, Shara Fryer, meteorologist Ed Brandon and sportscaster Bob Allen anchor this late evening half-hour newscast from 10:00-10:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. This program includes the latest news, weather, and sports. The program also features Anchor Marvin Zindler’s daily report on consumer complaints that affect the community, Nydia Han’s investigative consumer reports, and health reports by Christi Myers.

### **WEEKEND EVENING NEWSCASTS**

Bob Boudreaux, Minerva Perez (4/1/01 – 6/2/01), meteorologist David Tillman and sportscaster Tim Melton anchor 30-minute newscasts at 5:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Saturdays and 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Sundays. This program includes the latest news, weather and sports. (NOTE: Gina Gaston replaced Minerva Perez as co-anchor 6/9/01)

### **WEEKEND MORNING NEWSCASTS**

Mark Garay, Teresa Rodriguez, meteorologist David Tillman, and sportscaster Tim Melton anchor three morning news programs (90 minutes) at 5:30-7:00 a.m. on Saturdays and a 3 hour newscast at 6-9 a.m. on Sundays. These newscasts include the latest news, weather and sports. (NOTE: Minerva Perez replaced Teresa Rodriguez as co-anchor, 6/16/01.)

## ISSUES – Second Quarter, 2001

### ISSUE: FLOOD DISASTER

The first tropical storm of the hurricane season, Allison, hit several Gulf Coast states on June 5 and delivered massive flooding in Houston and the surrounding region. In the wake of the floods, the region was declared a federal disaster. Twenty-two people in Texas were killed as a result of the storm. Homes and businesses in the Houston received more than \$4 billion dollars in damages. The Medical Center, the world's largest health-care complex, accounted for most of the total estimated damage of over \$2 billion. Overall 43,269 Harris County homes suffered flood damages. Police reported 1,365 vehicles were towed from once-flooded roads and more than half of the Houston Independent School District's 300 schools experienced damage.

#### **"Danger In The Gulf"**

13 EYEWITNESS NEWS SPECIAL, 6/02/01, 5 PM, 30 minutes

Eyewitness News aired a half-hour special entitled, "Danger in the Gulf." The program focused on preparing viewers for the 2001 hurricane season. The program content covered emergency plans, hurricane season predictions, and what resident need to do to be prepared for a hurricane.

#### **"Flood Of A Lifetime"**

13 EYEWITNESS NEWS EMERGENCY LIVE COVERAGE

6/8/01: 6:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m., 6 hours

6/9/01: 12:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m., 11 hours

ABC13 News broadcast 30 continuous hours of wall-to-wall live coverage of Tropical Storm Allison and flood disaster in the region, with no commercials.

#### **"Flood Of A Lifetime" – The Aftermath**

13 EYEWITNESS CONTINUING SPECIAL LIVE COVERAGE

6/10/01: 4:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.; 10:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. (6 hours)

6/11/01: 4:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.; 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.;  
 10:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m. (10 hours)

6/12/01: 4:00 a.m.-7:00 a.m.; 11:30 a.m. –12:00 p.m.; 5:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.; 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.;  
 10:00 p.m.-10:30 p.m. (5 1/2 hours)

Live coverage included press conferences with City and County officials, reports on closed roads, flooded bayous, streets, neighborhoods, communities and homes. The Eyewitness News team was privileged to assist with crucial task of delivering bone marrow for a transplant patient at a local hospital. The station's chopper was up live almost the entire time during coverage, capturing shots of the horrible flooded conditions in our viewing area. Live reports issued emergency numbers and advisories issued by utilities companies, hospitals, government offices and law enforcement agencies. After the rained stopped, Eyewitness News delivered crucial information to victims on safety precautions, emergency services, rescue efforts and cleanup efforts. Eyewitness News also reported on the efforts of countless volunteers and heroes who came to people's aid during and after the storm.

## **ISSUES – Flood Disaster, Cont'd.**

### **Town Hall Meeting**

ABC13 LIVE TOWN HALL MEETING, 06/11/01: 7:00-9:00 p.m., 2 hours

In the wake of the 500 year floods disaster, this emergency town hall meeting, hosted by Debra Duncan, featured a live audience composed of area government officials, FEMA representatives, emergency services agency representatives, community leaders and area residents. Eyewitnesses accounted their experiences in the floods and asked questions about what they should do in their specific emergency situations. Area cleanup plans, relief efforts and government assistance were discussed and important advisories and phone numbers were issued for victims of the floods.

### **Relief for Flood Victims**

***ABC13 Debra Duncan "Caring Cradles City-wide Baby Shower"*** (6/14/01, 9:00 a.m., 1 hour)

This live program encouraged the public to take part in the March of Dimes tenth annual "Caring Cradles Citywide Baby Shower," sponsored by ABC-13 with corporate partners. By design, donations collected from this campaign benefit needy expectant mothers enrolled in prenatal care and baby care education programs. This year, in the aftermath of the 500 year floods brought on by Tropical Storm Allison—with the region declared a federal disaster--many of the donations went to flood victims left homeless or with water-damaged homes and property.

### **Flood Disaster Relief & Cleanup**

***ABC-13 Community Close Up: Viva Houston*** (6/23/01/ 12:00 p.m., 22 minutes)

City of Houston and Harris County public information officers discussed health and safety advisories issued by their governmental entities in the aftermath of the Tropical Storm Allison floods. The advisories addressed drinking water, flood water-contaminated food, mosquitoes, snake bites, mold and clean-up safety precautions. A representative of the Salvation Army related pertinent public information regarding donations for and assistance available to flood victims. A FEMA representative explained federal assistance available to flood victims and the application procedures.

### **Flood Disaster Relief & Cleanup**

***ABC-13 Community Close Up: Crossroads*** (6/23/01, 12:30 p.m., 22 minutes)

In addition to making a \$250,000 contribution to the American Red Cross Flood Relief Efforts, Shell Oil Company has provided countless volunteers to assist in the clean-up efforts from Storm Allison. They are also offering Shell Employees interest free loans from \$2500 to \$10,000 and providing an on-line matching needs program whereby Shell Employees can help other Shell employees affected by the storm. In Segment II-the Houston Food Bank issued an appeal for volunteers to help them sort and distribute food to shelters and food pantries. A United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast representative informed viewers of their website that could be used as an informational site for flood assistance. And lastly, a representative from Lowe's Home Improvement Store gave a demonstration on how easily people can replace sheet rock and install installation in their homes that have been flooded. He also recommended various products to reduce mold and mildew in homes.

## **ISSUES – Flood Disaster, Cont'd.**

### **Flood Disaster Reports & Advisories**

**ABC 13 Special Reports and Cut-ins** (6/6/01- 6/12/01, continuous coverage )

Aired continuous weather crawls and weather cut-ins, updating viewers about flooded communities, businesses, health facilities and hazardous freeways and streets that were impacted by Tropical Storm Allison.

**ISSUE:**  
**DISEASES – TREATMENT & PREVENTION**

**Hepatitis C**

***Debra Duncan*** “The Silent Killer: Hepatitis C” (4/1/01, 9:00 a.m., 1 hour)

The program focused on Hepatitis as a “silent killer” that can thrive in the human body for decades undetected. Medical experts talked about how the disease can be contracted—through blood transfusions, as well as through sharing a shaver or a toothbrush. The discussion addressed testing and treatment for Hepatitis and steps people can take to protect them against this disease that has been called the next deadly epidemic in the U.S.

**Diabetes**

***Debra Duncan*** “Silent Epidemic: Diabetes” (5/30/01, 9:00 a.m., 1 hour)

The program topic was diabetes—with a focus on Type 2 diabetes, as the most common and the seventh leading cause of death in the U.S. The discussion covered the known causes and factors associated with this condition. It emphasized the risks of diabetes, which allows a dangerous buildup of sugar glucose in the blood, that can lead to stroke, blindness, heart disease, kidney failure and limb amputations. The discussion stressed the importance of being tested for the disease and preventative measures one can take, such as eating healthy meals, exercising daily exercise and getting routine health checks.

**Diabetes**

***ABC-13 Community Close Up: Viva Houston*** (6/2/01, 12:30 p.m., 10 minutes)

This program segment featured a talk with an internal medicine specialist from the Baylor College of Medicine and a registered nurse and member of the local Hispanic health coalition discussing Type 2 diabetes, as a condition that is highest among Hispanic populations. The talk addressed cultural barriers to health education in the Latino community, specifically on the detection, treatment and prevention of diabetes.

**Prenatal & Infant Care**

***Debra Duncan*** “Caring Cradles City-Wide Baby Shower” (6/14/01, 9:00 a.m., 1 hour)

This live program promoted the public participation in the March of Dimes tenth annual “Caring Cradles City-Wide Baby Shower,” sponsored by ABC-13, along with corporate partners. The public service and information campaign is and designed to encourage expectant mothers to seek prenatal medical care and infant health care education for healthier babies, the March of Dimes main mission. The program encouraged the public to donate baby items such as clothing, blankets, formula and food, with donation benefiting needy expectant mothers. The donated items collected through this drive serve as an incentive for needy women to keep their medical and baby care education appointments. This year, in the face of the region’s flood disaster, the drive benefited flood victims in dire need of clothing and nutrition for their babies, with donations from the public being the highest ever in the campaign’s 10-year history.

**Heart Disease**

***ABC-13 Community Close Up: Viva Houston*** (6/30/01, 12:30 p.m., 6 minutes)

The causes of heart disease were discussed a talk with a cardiologist. The discussion emphasized the importance of a healthy diet, regular exercise, normal weight maintenance and medical treatment for conditions such as diabetes as ways of preventing heart disease.



## **ISSUE: DISEASES - TREATMENT & PREVENTION, Cont'd.**

### **AIDS**

***ABC13 Community Close Up: Crossroads*** (6/30/01, 12:00-12:30 p.m., 8 minutes)

The Center for Disease Control reports that Houston has the 7<sup>th</sup> largest population of persons with full-blown AIDS in the nation. More than 17-hundred men and women tested positive for HIV in Harris County Last year. And among the organizations and health facilities in the city attempting to provide healthcare and social services to people living with HIV and AIDS, is Bering Omega Community Services. Last year more than 2000 men and women benefited from their specialized care. Dena Gray, Director of Volunteer Services, discussed their respite care and other services for people with AIDS and HIV. In an effort to continue to educate the public about the spread of AIDS and HIV, the Houston Chapter of the NAACP produced an AIDS awareness public service announcement geared towards youth. The PSA is currently seen on ABC 13 KTRK-TV. And a local Disc Jockey produced a hip-hop rap video warning young adults about unprotected sex. The video is currently being distributed to school districts and community groups.

### **Stroke**

***13 Eyewitness News*** (6/23/01, 6:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m., 6 minutes)

Channel 13 teamed up with the American Heart and Stroke Association and HCA Healthcare for a stroke awareness day. Health reporter Christi Myers did a story on a young woman in her twenties who had a stroke and was saved by the quick thinking of her husband who knew the warning signs. Christi went over the warning signs and encouraged viewers to log on to our web site to review the signs and to the KTRK stroke quiz to see if they are at risk. She also encouraged viewers to pick up a free magnet with all the "stroke warning signs" listed in both English and Spanish at area Kroger stores. At 10:00 p.m. Myers profiled the local stroke team at Hermann Hospital. They advised that if you get to a hospital quickly and get the proper drug, you could "totally" recover from a stroke.

### **Neurofibromatosis**

***Debra Duncan*** "A Lesson in Compassion" (4/6/01, 9:00 a.m., 1 hour)

This live program, featuring a live audience, focused on neurofibromatosis. Viewers heard from people afflicted with the disease and how they deal with their condition day to day.

### **Cancer**

***Debra Duncan*** "A Survivor's Story" (4/27/01, 9:00 a.m., 1 hour)

Dr. Jerry Nelson gave an incredible personal account of living with and surviving breast cancer. She discovered that she had breast cancer while based at a remote research site in Anarctica. With no communication with the world expected for months and no other medical recourse, Dr. Nelson turned to her colleagues to perform the needed breast surgery. Her colleagues, including a chef and a janitor, performed breast cancer surgery on Dr. Nelson--while she remained conscious throughout the entire operation to guide her "surgeons" through the entire procedure.

### **Thyroid Disease**

***Debra Duncan*** "Could It be My Thyroid" (5/11/01, 9:00 a.m., 1 hour)

The program focused the symptoms, detection and treatment of thyroid disease.

**ISSUE: DISEASES - TREATMENT & PREVENTION, Cont'd.**

**Rare Diseases**

***Debra Duncan*** “Rare Diseases and Disorders” (5/16/01, 9:00 a.m., 1 hour)

The program featured a talk with persons afflicted with rare diseases and disorders and how they have dealt with these in their daily lives.

***Debra Duncan*** “Body Hair and Baldness” (5/24/01, 9:00 a.m., 1 hour)

The program dealt with the diseases and health conditions that can have an effect on body hair and/or cause baldness and how people deal with this problem from a health perspective, as well as socially.

***Debra Duncan*** “Strange and Unusual Diseases” (6/12/01, 9:00 a.m., 1 hour)

The program focused on diseases that are rare and unusual—including the symptoms, treatment and ways that people affected by these deal with them day to day.

## **ISSUE: HEALTH CARE**

**Debra Duncan** (various editions, 4/1/01-6/24/01, 9:00 a.m.; 6/25/01-6/30/01, 3:00 p.m., 1 hour each)  
Various editions of the live program, Debra Duncan featured talks on a variety of health care subjects.

### **Treatment**

Several editions of this live program focused on topics related to health care. The April 3<sup>rd</sup> topic, “I Can’t Cope Without it,” dealt with addictions to nonprescription drugs. The April 4<sup>th</sup> topic, “Make this Pain Go Away,” addressed new techniques for fighting pain. The June 27<sup>th</sup> edition, “People’s Pharmacist: Summer Emergencies,” dealt with preventing and treating mosquito and tick bites, sunburn, etc.

### **Medical Advancements**

The May 2<sup>nd</sup> edition on “Medical Miracles,” focused on new medical procedures that are saving lives. The June 25<sup>th</sup> program, “About Face,” dealt with new procedures in cosmetic surgeries.

### **Medical Mistakes & Scams**

The May 22<sup>nd</sup> edition, re-aired on June 29<sup>th</sup>, exposed medical mistakes and scams, accounted by experts and other guests.

### **Environmental Health Concerns**

The May 4<sup>th</sup> edition on “Hidden Home Dangers” focused on the things in the home environment that can be toxic or bad for one’s health. The June 20<sup>th</sup> program on the topic, “Is Your Home Killing You?” dealt with the presence of mold and mildew in the home, especially after the June floods, and the health concerns this poses for residents.

### **Stress**

The May 14<sup>th</sup> edition, titled “Stressed out and Sleep-wrecked,” featured doctors’ advice for the overly stressed and sleep deprived.

### **Weight Loss**

The May 7<sup>th</sup> edition featured a talk on “Anything to be Thin,” including drastic measures people take to lose weight and the effects that this can have on health. On the May 29<sup>th</sup> edition, Sarah Ferguson shared her diet secrets with viewers.

### ISSUE: PARENTING

***Debra Duncan*** (5/5/01, 9:00 a.m., 1 hour)

The program focused on “Parent Woes,” providing basic parenting tips for new parents.

***Debra Duncan*** (4/9/01, 9:00 a.m., 1 hour)

The program focused on “The Aggressive Child,” featuring a talk with experts and others guests on how to deal with aggressive children.

### **ISSUE: YATES CASE / POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION**

Postpartum depression affects roughly 8 to 15 percent of Mothers. Starting about 4 weeks after birth and lasting four months, it can cause feelings of confusion, panic and hopelessness as well as changes in eating and sleeping patterns. A more severe form of the condition is Postpartum Psychosis. It affects 1 in 4 of every 1,000 women. It can lead to hallucinations and thoughts of violence and suicide. On Wednesday, June 20, 2001, Andrea Yates, a Clear Lake woman who attempted suicide in 1999, was charged in the deaths of her 5 children amid shocking evidence that she drowned them in a bathtub at home. News reports indicate Yates may be suffering from a severe case of postpartum depression.

***ABC13 Eyewitness News*** (Week of 6/20/01- 6/27/01, all newscasts @ various times, LOCAL)

A Houston mother drowned her five children in the bathtub of her home. Several family members, doctors and law enforcement speculate this act may have been the result of “postpartum depression. That evening at 6:00 p.m., and for the next week at various times in the newscasts, we did many stories on depression. We informed the public where to go for help and help available in the community. Much of the content concentrated on new mothers and what is available to them at local hospitals, churches and other public facilities.

**ABC 13 Special Reports and Cut-ins** (6/20/01, 4 minutes)

Coverage of multiple murders in the Andrea Yates criminal case.

**ABC 13 Special Reports and Cut-ins** (6/21/01, 19 minutes)

Aired Live News Conference by Russell Yates, husband of Andrea Yates, accused of drowning their 5 children. Mr. Yates answered questions from the media and discussed wife's mental health.

**ABC 13 Special Reports and Cut-ins** ( 6/22/01- 4 minutes)

Aired cut-in of Andrea Yates', first court appearance after drowning her 5 children.

FCC ISSUES REPORT  
April 1 – June 30, 2001  
KTRK TV Houston

## **ISSUE: BLOOD SUPPLY SHORTAGES**

### **ABC13 Spring Blood Drive Coverage** (week of 4/02/01, various times each day)

ABC/13 aired news reports, news mentions, promotional spots, public services announcements and “crawls” promoting the ABC13 Spring Blood Drive, held April 6 and 7, sponsored in partnership with the Gulf Regional Blood Center, St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital and Radio Disney. The two-day blood drive helped to avert blood shortages that typically occur at local area hospitals during spring vacation. This year, the drive collected 1,309 whole units of blood donations.

## ISSUE: CHILD ABDUCTION

Since February of this year in the Houston area, there has been a string of abductions involving boys and girls. In some cases, their attackers sexually assaulted the children. Police are advising parents to talk with their children about what to do in the event someone attempts to kidnap them.

### ***13 Eyewitness News*** (5/2/01 – 5/8/01, All newscasts @ various times, LOCAL)

On May 2, 2001, a known sexual predator on parole kidnapped an 11-year-old girl. The story would have a happy ending, as a tip led police to the man who had abducted her; and she was reunited with her family. Through the course of the three days that the girl was missing, News gave extensive coverage to the search and issued tips to parents on how to talk to their children about strangers and what to do if approached by a stranger. When the girl was found, on May 5<sup>th</sup>, News broke in to regular programming throughout the day, to show her reunion with her family, the neighborhood and community celebration—and broadcast law enforcement briefings regarding the suspect. The 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. news programs were dedicated entirely to the girl's safe return, homecoming, and to the suspect's profile. In the days that followed, daily News presented numerous reports on sexual predators and how parents can find out if one is living in their neighborhood.

### ***Debra Duncan, "Are Your Children Safe?" (from child abductors)*** (5/15/01, 9:00 a.m., 1 hour)

This program promoted public awareness of the potential threat and danger that children face as susceptible targets of pedophiles. The talk focused on the "profile" of a pedophile, dismissing common myths and misconceptions about pedophiles—who are not necessarily always strangers and unknown to the victims—but can be trusted friends or even relatives. The discussion also made the public aware of the presence of convicted pedophiles living in our neighborhoods and communities and ways citizens can obtain that information through public information government sources.

### **ABC 13 Special Reports and Cut-ins** (5/3/01 & 5/4/01 22 minutes )

May 3, 2001 , aired FBI Press Conference on abduction of Leah Henry 19 minutes .

May 4, 2001 , aired Live News Cut-in: Rescue of Leah Henry , 3minutes.

**ISSUE: PUBLIC SAFETY****Potholes**

***13 Eyewitness News*** (4/26/01 & 4/27/01, 10:00 p.m.; 4/30/01 & 5/10/01, 6:00 p.m., 15 minutes)

News presented a series of reports by its investigative unit that, after months of work, uncovered a major problem with the City of Houston Public Works Department. The problem was not only costing taxpayer money, but was ultimately endangering lives. Some City workers were inflating the number of potholes being repaired, using questionable methods for calculating the work actually completed. A City audit conducted after the series aired blamed the exaggeration partly on “perceived pressure from Public Works management.” As many as ten City workers faced disciplinary action, and two top pothole repair supervisors quietly retired. The potholes were eventually repaired.

**School Crosswalks**

***13 Eyewitness News*** (5/22/01 & 5/23/01, 10 p.m., 7 minutes)

News investigative unit uncovered more than 100 school crosswalks in Houston in need of repairs. After the news series aired, City Hall responded and the Public Works Department has promised to repair the school zones crosswalks over the summer.

**Attacks By Animals**

***Debra Duncan “When Pets Attack” (and how to protect yourself)*** (4/26/01 & repeat 6/19/01, 9:00-10:00 a.m., 1 hour)

The program addressed the dangers people face when pets such as dogs attack, taking their victims by surprise. The discussion how one should react when a dog attacks, as something extremely important for people residing in communities in Texas, where the incidence of injuries and deaths resulting from attack by animals is the highest in the country.

**Being Stalked**

***Debra Duncan “I Was Stalked”*** (4/18/01, 9:00 a.m., 1 hour)

The live program focused on being stalked. Program guests shared their experiences and personal accounts about being stalked and how they dealt with it. The discussion featured advice from experts on what people can do to prevent being stalked in the first place--and what they can do if they are being stalked.



## ISSUE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### **Oil Industry Expansion Environmental Debate**

***The Battle Over Arctic Oil*** (05/19/01, 5:00 p.m., 22 minutes)

This special report by news anchor Art Rascon took viewers to the Arctic Circle, one of the largest oil reserves in North America. The report explored the controversy between Houston oil companies and the native Indians of Alaska over the drilling for oil in the National Wildlife Refuge. Our cameras captured scenes of hidden Indian villages, where native people live off the land, and the surrounding vast coastal plains of the North Slope, where oil companies are amassing hundreds of millions of dollars in crude oil. This environmental debate could result in huge profits for Houston oil companies--or be an answered prayer for the native Indian people of Alaska.

### **Minority Sector Economic Development**

***ABC-13 Community Close Up: Crossroads*** (5/26/01, 12:30 p.m., 5 minutes)

Wall Street Project is an economic initiative by the Rainbow Coalition, headed by Rev. Jesse Jackson. Offices for the Wall Street Project opened in Houston May 2001. Their main goal is to increase minority participation in Corporate America.

### **Regional Economic Development**

***ABC-13 Community Close Up: County Line*** (6/2/01, 12:00 p.m., 28 minutes)

This program, which surveys communities in the 8-county region, focussed the major issues and challenges of Brazoria County. The program featured talks with county and city officials on major issues such as economic development, urban revitalization and air quality.

## ISSUE: ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

### ***Border Crossing***, (June 16, 5:00 p.m., 22 minutes)

In this special report, news anchor Art Rascon and a news cameraman purchased one-way tickets to Mexico. From there, the two smuggled across the U.S. border, along with other illegal immigrants. The story documented the perilous trek of illegal passage across the Mexico-U.S. border, from hitching rides in Mexico, to crossing the Rio Grande and jumping boxcars—and the high risks that immigrants take in hopes of arriving safely to the land of opportunity.

## ISSUE: RACE/ETHNIC RELATIONS

### **Stereotyping Of Asians**

***ABC-13 Community Close Up: Visions*** (5/26/01, 12:00 p.m., LOCAL, 12 minutes)

A talk with three Asian Pacific American community representatives, each from distinct Asian ethnic cultures, explored general public misconceptions about people of Asian heritages, touching on myths and stereotypes. The talk also addressed stereotyping within the many diverse Asian cultures, as well as generational cultural differences.

### **Social Concerns of American Indians**

***ABC-13 Community Close Up: VISIONS*** (6/16/01/ 12:30 p.m., 17 minutes)

This special edition featured an in-depth talk with American Indian civil rights activist Russell Means, addressing the economic plight of American Indians, their political issues and social concerns, and the stereotyping of Indian people.